Ground Rules

- 1. Test assumptions and inferences.
- 2. Share all relevant information.
- 3. Use specific examples and agree on what important words mean.
- 4. Explain your reasoning and intent.
- 5. Focus on interests, not positions.
- 6. Combine advocacy and inquiry. (Expressing your point of view, and inviting others to inquire into your comments)
- 7. Jointly design next steps and ways to test disagreements.
- 8. Discuss undiscussable issues. (Topics that cannot be discussed openly in the group without some negative consequences)
- 9. Use a decision-making rule that generates the level of commitment needed.

